NUMB. CCCXXXVIII.

The SPECTATOR.

——— Servetur ad imum
Qualis ab incepto proceſſerit, & ſibi conſtet. Hor.

Friday, March 28. 1712.

I Find the Tragedy of the *Diſtreſt Mother* is publiſh'd to Day: The Author of the Prologue, I ſuppoſe, pleads an old Excuſe I have read ſomewhere, of being *dull with deſign*; the Gentleman who writ the Epilogue, has, to Knowledge, ſo much of greater Moment to value himſelf upon, that he will eaſily forgive me for diſliking the Exceptions made againſt Gayety at the End of ſerious Entertainments, in the following Letter: I ſhould be more unwilling to pardon him in my Body, a Practice which cannot have any Conſequence, but from the Abilities of the Perſon who is guilty of it.

MR. SPECTATOR,

I Had the Happineſs the other Night of ſitting very near you, and your worthy Friend Sir ROGER, at the Acting of the new Tragedy, which you have in a late Paper or two ſo juſtly recommended. I was highly pleas'd with the advantagious Situation Fortune had given me, in placing me ſo near two Gentlemen, from one of which I was ſure to hear ſuch Reflections on the ſeveral Incidents of the Play as pure Nature ſuggeſted, and from the other ſuch as flow'd from the exacteſt Art and Judgment: Tho' I muſt confeſs that my Curioſity led me ſo much to obſerve the Knight's Reflections, that I was not ſo well a Maſter to improve my ſelf by yours. Nature had found play'd her Part in the Knight pretty well, till the laſt concluding Lines ſhe intirely forſook him. You muſt know, Sir, that it is always my Cuſtom, when I have been well entertained at a Tragedy, to make my Retreat before the Facetious Epilogue enters; not but that thoſe Pieces are often very well writ, but having paid my Half Crown, and made a fair Purchaſe for as much of the pleaſing Melancholy as the Poet can afford me, or my own Nature admit me, I am willing to carry ſome of it home with me, and can't endure to be at once trick'd out of all, tho' by the witticiſt Dexterity in the World. However, I kept my Seat t'other Night, in hopes of finding my own Sentiments of this Matter favour'd by your Friends; when, to my great Surprize, I found the Knight entering with equal Pleaſure into both Parts, and as much ſatisfied with Mrs. *Oldfield*'s Gaiety, as he had been before with *Andromache*'s Greatneſs. Whether this were no other than an Effect of the Knight's peculiar Humanity, pleas'd to find at laſt, that after all the Tragical Doings, every thing was ſafe and well; I don't know. But for my own part, I muſt confeſs, I was ſo diſſatisfied, that I was ſorry the Poet had ſav'd *Andromache*, and could heartily have wiſh'd that he had left her ſtone-dead upon the Stage. For you cannot imagine, Mr. SPECTATOR, the Miſchief ſhe was reſerv'd to do me. I found my Soul, during the Action, gradually work'd up to the higheſt Pitch; and felt the exalted Paſſion which all generous Minds conceive at the Sight of Virtue in Diſtreſs. The Impreſſion, believe me Sir, was ſo ſtrong upon me, that I am perſwaded, if I had been let alone in it, I could at an Extremity have ventured to defend your ſelf, and Sir ROGER, againſt half a Score of the fierceſt *Mohocks*: But the ludicrous Epilogue in the Cloſe, extinguiſh'd all my Ardour, and made me look upon all ſuch noble Atchievements as downright ſilly and romantick. What the reſt of the Audience felt, I can't ſo well tell: For my ſelf I muſt declare, that at the end of the Play I found my Soul uniform, and all of a Piece; but at the end of the Epilogue it was ſo jumbled together, and divided between Jeſt and Earneſt, that if you will forgive me an extravagant Fancy, I will here ſet it down. I could not but fancy, if my Soul had at that Moment quitted my Body, and deſcended to the Poetical Shades, in the Poſture it was then in, what a ſtrange Figure it would have made among them. They would not have known what to have made of my mottley Spectre, half Comic and half Tragic, all over reſembling a ridiculous Face, that at the ſame Time laughs on one ſide, and cries on t'other. The only Defence, I think, I have ever heard made for this, as it ſeems to me, moſt unnatural Tack of the Comic Tail to the Tragic Head, is this, that the Minds of the Audience muſt be refreſhed, and Gentlemen and Ladies not ſent away to their own Homes with too diſmal and melancholy Thoughts about them.

For

' For who knows the Conſequence of this? We are ' much obliged indeed to the Poets for the great ' Tenderneſs they expreſs for the Safety of our ' Perſons, and heartily thank them for it. But if that ' be all, pray, good Sir, aſſure them, that we ' are none of us like to come to any great Harm; ' and that, let them do their beſt, we ſhall in all ' Probability live out the Length of our Days, and ' frequent the Theatres more than ever. What ' makes me more deſirous to have ſome Reformati- ' on of this Matter, is becauſe of an ill Conſe- ' quence or two attending it: For a great many of ' our Church-Muſicians being related to the Thea- ' tre, they have, in Imitation of theſe Epilogues, ' introduc'd in their farewell Voluntaries a ſort of ' Muſick quite foreign to the Deſign of Church- ' Services, to the great Prejudice of well-diſpos'd ' People. Thoſe fingering Gentlemen ſhould be ' inform'd, that they ought to ſuit their Airs to the ' Place and Buſineſs; and that the Muſician is ob- ' lig'd to keep to the Text as much as the Preacher. ' For want of this, I have found by Experience a ' great deal of Miſchief: For when the Preacher ' has often, with great Piety and Art enough, handled ' his Subject, and the judicious Clark has with ' utmoſt Diligence cull'd out two Staves proper to ' the Diſcourſe, and I have found in my ſelf, and ' in the reſt of the Pew, good Thoughts and Diſ- ' poſitions, they have been all in a Moment diſſi- ' pated by a merry Jigg from the Organ-Loft. One ' knows not what further ill Effects the Epilogues ' I have been ſpeaking of may in Time produce: ' But this I am credibly inform'd of, that *Paul Lor- ' rain* has reſolv'd upon a very ſudden Reformation ' in his tragical Dramas; and that at the next ' monthly Performance, he deſigns, inſtead of a Pe- ' nitential Pſalm, to diſmiſs his Audience with an ' excellent new Ballad of his own compoſing. ' Pray Sir do what you can to put a Stop to theſe ' growing Evils, and you will very much oblige

Your humble Servant,
Phyſibulus.

The Boarding-School for young Gentlewomen, which was formerly kept on Mile-End Green, *being laid down, there is now one ſet up almoſt oppoſite to it at the two Golden-Balls, and much more convenient in every Reſpect; where, beſide the common Inſtructions given to young Gentlewomen, they will be taught the whole Art of Paſtrey and Preſerving, with whatever may render them accompliſhed.*

At the Deſire of ſeveral Ladies of Quality.
By Her Majeſty's Company of Comedians.

AT the Theatre Royal in Drury-Lane, to Morrow, being Saturday, the 25th of March, will be preſented a new Tragedy call'd, The Diſtreſt Mother. By her Majeſty's Command, no Perſons are to be admitted behind the Scenes. And on Monday next will be preſented a Play call'd, Philaſter, or Love lies a bleeding. Written by Beaumont and Fletcher. For the Benefit of Mr. Mills.

A Collection of extraordinary original Pictures by Nicolas Pouſſin, Gaſpar Pouſſin, Salvator Roſa, F. Lauro, Carlo Maratt, Vandyck, and ſeveral other excellent Maſters; will be ſold by Auction at Mr. Gonge's Dwelling-houſe, at the Golden Head in the Little Piazza in Covent Garden, on Wedneſday next, being the 2d Day of April; where Catalogues may be had, and the Pictures view'd on Monday and Tueſday next.

At the Crown in Wine-Office-Court the 2d Door on the Left-hand from Fleet-ſtreet, on Saturday the 5th of February laſt were opened 3 Books for the SALE of NUMBERS, which have met with very good Succeſs and Encouragement; propoſing Cent. per Cent. Advantage in a Return of no longer Time than 4 Weeks for the firſt hundred Numbers, and none will ſtay longer than 6 Weeks from the Time of their Entrance before they receive the propoſed Advantage. Attendance is given daily from 9 to 12, and from 2 till 6.

Loſt on Tueſday laſt about ſix a Clock in the Evening, in a Hackney-Coach that went from the Wheat-ſheaf and Star on Ludgate-hill to Brewers-hall in Addle-ſtreet, Aldermanbury, a Parcel of Silk. Whoever ſhall bring or ſend the ſame to either of thoſe Places, ſhall have 10 s. Reward.

At the Sign of the Golden Head in Channel-Row in Weſtminſter, on Wedneſday the 26th of this Inſtant March, was opened an Office for improving of Money; wherein the only Purchaſers will receive great Advantages. Propoſals at large may be had gratis at the Office aforeſaid.

Whereas a Cane was ſome time ſince left at Steel's Coffee-houſe in Bread-ſtreet by a Perſon unknown. The Owner deſcribing it, and paying the Charge of this Advertiſement, may have it again.

At Eaſt-Acton in Middleſex, is to be Lett, a good House 4 Rooms on a Floor, with Coach-houſe, Stables, Orchard and Garden, all in very good Repair. Inquire at Mr. Lamb's at Acton, or at his Houſe in Lombard-ſtreet.

Seventeen Miles from London, and within three Miles of St Albans near Weſt Cheſter Road, is a very fine Seat to be lett, (the Houſe ready furniſhed) with Gardens, Fiſh-Ponds, Dove-Houſe, Coach-Houſes, Stables, Brew-houſe, and all other Conveniencies fit for a Perſon of Quality, as pleaſant Walks, Plantations, &c. Enquire of Mr. Collys, at his Houſe in Blue-Croſs Street near Leiſter-Fields.

At Whitton in Middleſex is to be lett (with Land or without) a very good faſhionable Houſe of 8 Rooms on a Floor, with Saſh-Windows and Cloſets, and very good Offices, Landry, Brew-houſe and Dove houſe, Coach-houſe and Stables, and very handſome Gardens wall'd round and planted with the beſt Fruit, adorn'd with Statues, fine Greens, and a Wilderneſs, and Kitchen-Gardens, all lying compact. It is between Iſleworth and Twickenham, about 10 Miles from London, 3 from Brentford, 3 from Kingſton, 2 from Richmond, and between 2 and 3 from Hampton-Court. Enquire of Mr. Thomas Jackſon Surgeon at Twickenham, or at Tom's Coffee-houſe in Devereaux-Court near the Temple, London.

This Day is publiſh'd,

The Diſtreſt Mother. A Tragedy. As it is acted at the Theatre Royal in Drury Lane by Her Majeſty's Servants. Written by Mr. Philips. Printed for S. Buckley at the Dolphin in Little-Britain, and J. Tonſon at Shakeſpear's Head againſt Catherine-ſtreet in the Strand.

The Firſt Volume of the Memoirs of Literature, for the Years 1710 and 1711, containing a weekly Account of the State of Learning both at home and abroad, is now compleat; with a large Index. Sold by A. Baldwin in Warwick-Lane, where may be had the Sheets of the 2d Volume, as they come out weekly.

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A Set of the Cries of the City of London, conſiſting of 74 Prints, taken off from ſo many Copper Plates curiouſly engraven, each Figure drawn after the Life by the famous M. Laroon, to render the Set more compleat and diverting, each Figure explain'd in Engliſh, French, and Italian. Printed for and ſold by Henry Overton, at the White Horſe without Newgate, and by the moſt noted Printſellers of Great Britain and Ireland. Price 10 s. Set.

The Hiſtory of France from the Origin of that Nation to the Year 1702. Containing all the material Tranſactions in Peace and War; with a particular Account of the Steps taken by their late Princes to ſubvert their Civil Liberties, and to extirpate the Reformed Religion. To which is added, The antient and preſent State of France, as to its Conſtitution and Government, the Royal Family, the Nobility, Civil and Military Offices, &c. With the Effigies of each of the Kings, curiouſly engraven: In 2 Vols. Sold by John Darby in Bartholomew Cloſe.

Lately publiſh'd,

A Companion for the Ladies Cloſets; or, the Life and Death of the moſt excellent the Lady..... Price 1 s. A Help to Devotion: Being a Collection of Prayers for every Occaſion, fitted to the Days of the Week, with a particular Office for the Sacrament. The 2d Edition enlarg'd. Collected by a Gentlewoman for her own private Uſe. Price 1 s. Both ſold by J. Downing in Bartholomew Cloſe; where may be had the 2d Edition of Mrs. Burnet's Devotions, with her Life. Price 4 s. as alſo the Biſhop of Saliſbury's Expoſition of the Church Catechiſm.

The Vapours in Women infallibly Cured in an Inſtant, ſo as never to return again, by an admirable Chymical Secret, a few drops of which takes off a Fit in a Moment, diſpels Sickneſs, clears the Head, takes away all Swimming, Giddineſs, Dimneſs of Sight, Flushings in the Face, &c. to a Miracle, and moſt certainly prevents the Vapours returning again; for by Rooting out the very Cauſe it perfectly Cures as Hundreds have experienced: It alſo ſtrengthens the Stomach and Bowels, and cauſes Eyelineſs and ſettled Health. Is ſold only at Mrs. Osborn's, Toy-ſhop, at the Bible and Crown under St. Dunſtan's Church in Fleet-ſtreet, at 7 s. 6 d.

LONDON: Printed for *Sam. Buckley*, at the *Dolphin* in *Little-Britain*; and Sold by *A. Baldwin* in *Warwick-Lane*; where Advertiſements are taken in; as alſo by *Charles Lillie*, Perfumer, at the Corner of *Beauford-Buildings* in the *Strand*.